



Utah State Courts

Liberty Under Law: Empowering Youth, Assuring Democracy

What? Judge for a Day is a program organized by the Utah State Courts to provide high school students with an opportunity to shadow a judge for one day in April or May. The school selects a student to participate in the program based on a theme-related essay, civic involvement, or teacher nomination.

Why? Judge for a Day was established to recognize Law Day on May 1. The 2007 Law Day theme is "Liberty Under Law: Empowering Youth, Assuring Democracy," which focuses on the issues and needs facing today's youth. The theme also encourages us to assure that our youth are equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively make their voices heard within our democracy.

Who? Students will be paired with a judge from one of eight court districts for one day. The student will spend from about 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with the judge to learn what it takes to be a judge and to learn more about the judicial branch of government.

How? Submit the student's name, along with essay, civic involvement resume, or teacher's nomination, school name, student's age, phone number, and e-mail by March 19, 2007 to the Utah State Courts' Public Information Officer Nancy Volmer at nancyv@email.utcourts.gov. For more information on the Law Day theme, go to www.lawday.org.

The future of our nation is in the hands of our young people. We all can and should play a role in assuring America's future by addressing the needs of youth and by focusing on the issues affecting them today. All youth need to understand their rights and responsibilities under the law to become effective participants in our nation's civic life.

Utah's courts are committed to open, fair, and independent justice.